IN THE CLAIMS:

1. (Currently Amended) A method of network management in a network comprising a plurality of access points comprising:

monitoring a communication channel between a mobile device and a first access point in a wireless local area network (WLAN)at by the first access point to determine whether a trigger event occurs, if the trigger event is determined to have occurred;

sending a switch-assessment request from the first access point to one or more other access points of the plurality of access points receiving a switch-assessment response from at least one of the one or more other access points selecting a select access point from the at least one of the one or more other access points based on the switch-assessment response;

sending a switch-command from the first access point to the mobile device to establish a communication channel between the mobile device and the select access point; and

the first access point maintaining a message buffer for the mobile device until the switch of the mobile device from the first access point to the select access point is complete; and

defining a plurality of access classifications associated with the mobile device and at least one of the one or more other access points of the plurality of access points and selecting the select access point based at least in part on one or more access classifications;

wherein the trigger event is initially determined by the first access point without receiving a request to switch from the mobile device; and

wherein the access classifications include a path of motion of the mobile device.

2. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 1, wherein the trigger event is based at least in part on at least one of: a signal strength of communications from the mobile device an error rate associated with communications to the mobile device, and traffic through the first access point.

3. (Canceled)

4. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 3 1, further including receiving other information at the first access point regarding communications from the mobile device and determining the direction of movement based at least in part on this other information.

5. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 1, further including providing configuration information to the mobile device to facilitate establishing the communication channel between the mobile device sand the select access point.

6. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 5, further including receiving the configuration information from the select access point.

7. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 1, further including sending periodic messages from the mobile device to the first access point to facilitate the monitoring of the communications channel between the mobile device and the first access point.

8. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 1, wherein sending the switch-assessment request includes sending parameters associated with the mobile device to the one or more other access points.

9. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 8, wherein selecting the select access point is based at least in part on at least one of: a compatibility between the mobile device and the select access point, traffic at the select access point traffic of the mobile device, and a predicted path of the mobile device.

10. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 1, wherein the access classifications include preferred, acceptable, forbidden, subscription level, and quality-of-service parameters.

11. (Currently Amended) An access point device comprising:

a trigger control module that is configured to determine a triggering event and initiate a transfer of the mobile device to a selected access point device of other access point devices in wireless local area network (WLAN) when the trigger event occurs,

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a first transceiver that is configured to provide a communication channel with <u>said</u> <u>trigger control module; and</u>

~~a mobile device a trigger control module that is configured to initiate a transfer~~ ~~of the mobile device to a select access point device of other access point devices~~ <u>and</u>

a switch control module that is configured to effect the transfer <u>of the mobile</u> <u>device to the selected access point device of other access point devices,</u>

wherein the switch control module is configured to: send a switch-assessment request to one or more other access point devices receive a switch-assessment response from at least one of the one or more other access point devices select a select access point device from the at least one of the one or more other access point devices based on the switch-assessment response send a switch-command to the mobile device a the first transceiver to establish a communication channel between the mobile device and the select access point device; and for determining a classification of the mobile device and at least one of the one or more other access points relative to the mobile device from a plurality of access classifications and for selecting the select access point based at least in part on one or more access classifications<u>;</u>

<u>wherein the trigger event is initially determined by the first access point without</u> <u>receiving a request to switch from the mobile device; and</u>

<u>wherein the access classifications include a path of motion of the mobile device.</u>

12. (Previously Presented) The device of claim 11, wherein the trigger control module is configured to initiate the transfer based at least in part on at least one of: a

signal strength of communications from the mobile device, an error rate associated with communications to the mobile device and traffic through the first access point device.

13. (Canceled)

14. (Currently Amended) The device of claim ~~13~~11, further including a second transceiver that is configured to receive other information regarding communications from the mobile device wherein determining the direction of movement is based at least in part on this other information; and

a message buffer associated with the access point device for buffering data for the mobile device until the switch control module confirms the transfer to the select access point is complete.

15. (Previously Presented) The device of claim 11, wherein the switch control module is further configured to provide configuration information to the mobile device to facilitate establishing the communication channel between the mobile device and the select access point device.

16. (Previously Presented) The device of claim 15, wherein the switch control module is further configured to receive the configuration information from the select access point device.

17. (Previously Presented) The device of claim 11, wherein the switch-assessment request includes parameters associated with the mobile device.

18. (Previously Presented) The device of claim 17, wherein the switch control module is configured to select the select access point device based at least in part on at least one of: a compatibility between the mobile device and the select access point device traffic at the select access point device traffic of the mobile device.

19. (Previously Presented) The device of claim 11, wherein the switch control module is further configured to select the select access point device based at least in part on an access classification associated with the mobile device and at least one of the one or more other access point devices.

20. (Previously Presented) The device of claim 11, wherein the switch control module is further configured to selected the select access point device based at least in part on: a geographic location of the select access point device and a predicted travel path of the mobile device.